Requirement of Foodgrains in *the* country

3161. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether considering the current population growth rate in country, Government have made any estimate with regard to the requirement of foodgrains during the next five years or so and the estimated quantity of foodgrains "required to be imported to meet the demand;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the year wise import projection, if any, made by Government for the coming five years or so?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) The requirement of foodgrains differs with varying pattern of consumption and availability of different foods including fish, mutton, eggs, fruits etc. As such it is not possible to assess the exact requirement of foodgrains at any given time. However, the production targets laid down in the National plan of Action on Nutrition for Agricultural Sector for 1997 and 2000 A.D. are 208 million and 250 million tonnes respectively.

Having regard to food production trend and consumption habit of tha larger section of vulnerable population, the Government do not for see any shortfall between the demand and supply. Hence, future imports as such, have not been estimated. Presently, stock position of foodgrains (wheat & rice) in the Central Pool is comfortable and Government do not contemplate to import wheat and rice in near future. There is some shortfall in demand and supply of pulses and as per the current EXIM POLICY, pulses are allowed to be imported freely.

Per capita availability of foodgrains

3162. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the per capita availability of foodgrains in the country for the last three years;

(b) what is the standard per capita requirement of foodgrains and total requirement of country as per standard requirement; and

(e) how many years it will take to bridge the gap between the requirement and supply?

THS MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH: (a) The per capita net availability of foodgrains in India during the last 3 years is as under:—

Year	Kg./per year	Grams/ per day
1992((P)	171.0	468.5
1993(P)	169.0	463.0
1994(P)	169.3	463.8

(P)—Provisional

(b) and (c) Having regard to food production trend and consumption habit of the larger section of vulnerable population, the Government do not forsee any short fall between the demand and supply. There is no standard per capita requirement of foodgrains since it differs with varying patterns of consumption of availability of different foods including fish, mutton, eggs and fruits etc. Given the projected rate of growth of population, income and production; the per capita availability of foodgrains is expected to improve by 2000 AD.